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TI Drilling fluids
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AB The invention relates to the use of aq. surfactant compn. as, or in
drilling fluids, including spacer fluids, packing fluids, or
completion fluids, wherein the compns. comprise (i) <5 wt.%
.gtoreq.1 of polymeric compds., (ii) optionally, dissolved
electrolyte, (iii) <10 wt.% of surfactant, the surfactant being
present as an aq. structured surfactant, which is a soln. contg.
surfactant micelles or interspersed with a spherulitic
surfactant, in a quantity sufficient to inhibit disintegration of
shale and to maintain the rock cuttings in suspension under normal
drilling conditions, and (vi) 0-10 wt.% of a weighting agent, all
wts. being based on total wt. of the compn. A method of improving
the drilling properties of conventional unweighted water-based
drilling fluids comprising one or more polymeric compds. and
optionally dissolved electrolyte is also provided. Also drilling
fluid compns. are provided.
